

December 21, 2021

Dear CYO Parents,

We are writing to provide an update regarding CYO and Covid-19.

### **CYO Basketball in a Pandemic Environment**

We are in a challenging situation again as the Covid-19 Omicron variant takes hold in Ohio. Three weekends of games have been completed. This past weekend we saw an increase of teams canceling games at the last minute due to a positive Covid test or exposure to a person who had tested positive.

We are consulting weekly with Dr. Robert Salata, Physician-in-Chief and Master Clinician in Infectious Diseases regarding Covid-19 developments. Dr. Salata has also been a CYO basketball coach and he serves on the Covid response committee at his parish. He has stated that the medical community sees the highly contagious Omicron variant as causing a large surge in infections between now mid-January.

In addition to the scientific data and recommendations, we also consider the pastoral care of children and families. The question of how to best manage the risks involved with the safety and well-being of the children in CYO is the top priority that we share with you.

### **We have decided to delay the start of CYO games after winter break until January 22, 2022.**

That is a two week delay from our published schedules. The games that are missed during those two weeks will be added at the end of the season. Any games missed thus far will not be rescheduled.

### **The Psychological Battle Rages On**

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to be a battle of human psychology. Many people are tired and some are exhausted. The reality that we will not get to see beloved friends, family and grandchildren again this Christmas is cause to feel deep sadness and disappointment. We just want this to be over – NOW!

Emerging developments remind us again and again that viral pandemics do not work that way. This pandemic requires that we change our thinking and change our behavior – how we think and what we do. That is hard work individually and together. We get it that people are fearful and tired and longing for the pandemic to end. We are too.

We will continue to stay focused on our mission with the goal of doing what CYO does best: *Giving children a fun, holy, and healthy sports experience while giving them memories that can last a lifetime.*

We encourage you to consider when, where and how you have experienced God's grace and tenderness during this pandemic. In and through these challenges, God's gentle love and mercy continue to shine through in ways small and large. In Victor Frankel's book, Man's Search for Meaning, he writes about how as a prisoner in Auschwitz he discovered that the last choice that could be taken away from human beings is the choice to choose to love amidst suffering, the choice to choose love over evil.

Our Catholic Church loves and cares for young people and families. Please know of our prayers and gratitude for you and for your family. We ask for your prayers and support as we strive to serve the young people and families entrusted to our care.

We wish you and your family have a holy, healthy and peaceful New Year! We look forward to your safe return in 2022 for more memory making in CYO sports as we strive to inspire young people to know God, to love God and to serve God through athletics.

Peace be with you.

Dr. Dobie Moser

CYO Director

Ms. Mary Ann King, M.A.

CYO Athletic Administrator